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cont'd.

verify that articles, which were physically grouped by a manual or automated grouping process into a physically grouped order, belong to the physically grouped order, wherein instructions to verify comprise instructions to:

examine codes on tags and scan unique identifier codes on the tags, each tag associated with one article in the group to determine that the article belongs in the grouped order; and

indicate to an operator if the scanned unique sequential code does not correspond to an item that belongs in the grouped order.

24. (Thrice Amended) An apparatus for verifying inventory grouping comprises:

a scanner to scan codes on labels;

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a computer having a computer readable storage media storing a computer program product comprises instructions for causing the computer to:

verify that articles, which were physically grouped by a manual or automated grouping process, into a physically grouped order, belong to the physically grouped order, wherein instructions to verify comprise instructions to:

examine codes on tags and scan unique identifier codes on the tags, each tag associated with one article in the group to determine that the article belongs in the grouped order; and
indicate when an article has been scanned previously.

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26. (Twice Amended) The apparatus of claim 25 further comprising:

a printer to print tags having unique sequential identification for affixing to the articles and/or a ticket or an invoice.

Please add the following claims:

34. A method of inventory management comprises:

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verifying that articles, which were physically grouped by a manual or automated grouping process into a physically grouped order, belong to the physically grouped order, wherein verifying comprises:

examining codes on tags by scanning unique identifier codes on the tags, each tag associated with one article in the group to determine that the article belongs in the grouped order; and

indicating when an article has been scanned previously.

35. The method of claim 34 wherein examining further comprises:

indicating to an operator if the scanned unique sequential code does not correspond to an item that belongs in the grouped order.

36. A computer program product residing on a computer readable media for use in a dry cleaning establishment comprises instructions for causing a computer to:

verify that articles, which were physically grouped by a manual or automated grouping process into a physically grouped order, belong to the physically grouped order, wherein instructions to verify comprise instructions to:

examine codes on tags and scan unique identifier codes on the tags, each tag associated with one article in the group to determine that the article belongs in the grouped order; and indicate when an article has been scanned previously.

REMARKS

The above-identified patent application has been amended and reconsideration and reexamination are requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-16 and 18-26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. 5,794,213 Markman.

Claim 1 as amended now calls for verifying that articles, which were physically grouped by a manual or automated grouping process into a physically grouped order, belong to the physically grouped order. This feature is not described by Markman. Markman operates on ungrouped articles and seeks to group them.